

**WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)  
NON-EASEMENT PROJECTS RANKING FORM  
November 2006**

Applicant\_\_\_\_\_

County\_\_\_\_\_

Tract No.\_\_\_\_\_

**ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA**

**TOTALS**

**I. Location**

A. Proximity to Other Wetland Restoration Projects

- |  |           |       |
|--|-----------|-------|
| 1. Project is within 1 mile of an existing wetland projects restored under WRP, CREP/CRP, or Partners for Fish and Wildlife  | 20 points | _____ |
| 2. Project is within 2 miles of an existing wetland projects restored under WRP, CREP/CRP, or Partners for Fish and Wildlife | 10 points | _____ |

B. Proximity to Riparian Area

- |                                   |          |       |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-------|
| 1. Adjoining                      | 5 points | _____ |
| 2. Less than or equal to 500 feet | 3 points | _____ |

Riparian Area Multiplier – Use only if the WRP Agreement includes the riparian area.

--points \_\_\_\_\_ x 2 = \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Size of Area Included in Agreement (Contiguous)**

(round to whole acre)

- |                                      |           |       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| A. Greater than or equal to 20 acres | 10 points | _____ |
| B. Between 15 and 19 acres           | 6 points  | _____ |
| C. Between 10 and 14 acres           | 4 points  | _____ |

Add 1 point for every acre over 20 acres.

- maximum is 20 additional points      \_\_\_\_ points      \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Hydrology

A. Hydric Soil Area to be Restored (% of hydric soil acreage that will not have hydrology restored)

- |              |           |       |
|--------------|-----------|-------|
| 1. 80 – 100% | 10 points | _____ |
| 2. 60 – 79%  | 6 points  | _____ |
| 3. 40 – 59%  | 2 points  | _____ |

NOTES: Consider only hydric soil within agreement area  
Include any recent wetland restoration,  
but no existing natural wetlands.

B. Average Slope for the Restoration Area

- |                               |           |       |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1. Less than or equal to 1.5% | 10 points | _____ |
| 2. Between 1.6 and 2.5%       | 6 points  | _____ |
| 3. Between 2.6 and 3.0%       | 2 points  | _____ |

NOTE: Projects should not exceed 4%

C. Saturated Soils Above Water Line Elevation

(Surface Area <1 ft. elev. above planned permanent water line, as % of Permanent Pool Area)

- |   |           |       |
|---|-----------|-------|
| 1. Greater than or equal to 200% (2:1)  | 10 points | _____ |
| 2. Greater than or equal to 100% (1:1)  | 6 points  | _____ |
| 3. Greater than or equal to 50% (0.5:1) | 2 points  | _____ |

D. Source of Hydrology – Perennial Flow

- |  |          |       |
|--|----------|-------|
| 1. Less than 25% of water from perennial flow                                  | 6 points | _____ |
| 2. Greater than 25% and less than or equal to 50% of water from perennial flow | 4 points | _____ |
| 3. Greater than 50% of water from perennial flow                               | 2 points | _____ |

Surface Water Multiplier

Less than 10:1 Watershed Area to Pool Area

-- Points \_\_\_\_\_ x 3 = \_\_\_\_\_

Greater than or equal to 10:1 Watershed Area to Pool Area

-- Points \_\_\_\_\_ x 1 = \_\_\_\_\_

Greater than or equal to 20:1 Watershed Area to Pool Area

-- Points \_\_\_\_\_ x 0.5 = \_\_\_\_\_

### IV. Buffer Included in Agreement

(upland or existing natural wetland)

- |   |          |       |
|---|----------|-------|
| A. Surrounds hydric soil area (95 – 100%) | 5 points | _____ |
| B. 75 – 94% of hydric soil perimeter      | 4 points | _____ |
| C. 50 – 74% of hydric soil perimeter      | 3 points | _____ |
| D. 25 – 49% of hydric soil perimeter      | 2 points | _____ |

NOTE: Consider only hydric soil perimeters within agreement

Buffer Width (average) Multiplier			
100 feet or more	-- points _____ x 3	=	_____
50 feet to 99 feet	-- points _____ x 2	=	_____

**V. Vegetated Wetlands Expected in 10 Years**

- |   |          |       |
|---|----------|-------|
| A. Greater than or equal to 20% forested wetlands<br>(tree species) | 5 points | _____ |
| B. Greater than or equal to 20% shrub wetlands                      | 5 points | _____ |
| C. Less than 20% open water   | 5 points | _____ |
- NOTE: Include points for each that applies

ECONOMIC CRITERIA

TOTALS

**VI. Restoration Cost**

(divide restoration cost by total agreement area)

- |                             |           |       |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------|
| A. Less than \$500 per acre | 10 points | _____ |
| B. \$500 – 749 per acre     | 6 points  | _____ |
| C. \$750 – 999 per acre     | 4 points  | _____ |
| D. \$1000 – 1250 per acre   | 2 points  | _____ |

NOTE: Projects should not exceed \$2000 per acre

**VII. Landowner Contributions (including other non-Federal Sources)**

- |                                 |           |       |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| A. Greater than or equal to 50% | 10 points | _____ |
| B. Greater than or equal to 40% | 6 points  | _____ |
| C. Greater than or equal to 35% | 2 points  | _____ |

**TOTAL SCORE** \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER CRITERIA (check off)

\_\_\_ Endangered Species

SIGNATURES \_\_\_\_\_

District Conservationist

\_\_\_\_\_  
FWS (or Representative) if available

# INSTRUCTONS FOR WRP

## NON-EASEMENT PROJECT RANKING CRITERIA

November 2006

Applicant: The person or corporation who controls the land.

Tract No.: Only if FSA already has assigned a tract number. Persons enrolled in WRP will be required to comply with Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and Food Security Act requirements.

### I. Location

A. Proximity to Other Wetland Restoration Projects: On location map, measure from edge of proposed WRP agreement boundary to the boundary of the nearest voluntary wetland restoration project area.

Maximum score – 20 points

B. Proximity to Riparian Area: Measure from the edge of the proposed WRP agreement boundary nearest to the stream to the edge of the natural riparian vegetation, or the edge of the stream if the riparian area is in agricultural use (pasture or cropland).

Multiplier: Certain Riparian Areas are eligible for WRP agreements, these riparian areas may be up to 300 feet wide on each side of the stream (measured from the stream edge). In these instances the entire WRP agreement will usually be contiguous (score of 5 points above).

Maximum score – 10 points

II. Size of Contiguous Agreement: It is assumed there is only one agreement area per tract (including buffers and riparian areas). If there are more than one, complete only one form per tract – list the actual acreage for each agreement area in the margin and do not assign points for this criteria. The State Office will review and assign points.

Maximum score – 30 points

### III. Hydrology

A. Hydric Soil Area to be restored: Evaluate only hydric soil within the proposed agreement. Estimate the percentage of the hydric soil acreage that has hydrology or will have hydrology restored.

Maximum score – 10 points

B. Average Slope for Restoration Area: Projects on flatter slopes are more cost effective to restore.

Maximum Score – 10 points

C. Saturated Soils above Water Line Elevation: Projects that are on flatter slopes with fine textured soils will have a larger fringe of saturated soils. Estimate the land area that will be between the waters edge and up to one foot in elevation above the permanent pool. This fringe area is then compared to the proposed pool surface area (percent or ratio).

Maximum Score – 10 points

D. Source of Hydrology: Fluctuating hydrology provides more ecological diversity. Therefore, wetlands dominated by perennial (365 days a year) springs or streams, and/or large contributing watersheds (Multiplier) will be scored lower.

Maximum score – 18 points

IV. Buffer Included in Agreement: Assign points only if uplands, existing wetlands, or riparian areas are included in addition to the degraded (or recently restored) hydric soils that make the site eligible for WRP. Consider only the perimeters of hydric soil areas that are within the proposed agreement (ignore any portion of a hydric soil area that extends beyond the proposed agreement). When there are more than one hydric soil areas within the agreement, estimate the overall average perimeter that has a buffer.

Multiplier: Estimate the overall average width of the buffer area. Do not use the multiplier if the average is less than 50 feet.

Maximum score – 15 points

V. Vegetated Wetlands Expected in 10 Years: These are bonus points to be assigned if the landowner is interested in managing for these habitats and NRCS and FWS personnel are confident trees and/or shrubs will become established. Also, sites with a minimum of open water are more likely to develop woody habitat.

Maximum score – 15 points

VI. Restoration Cost: Use the total estimated restoration cost. Divide this cost by the entire proposed agreement acreage.

Maximum score – 10 points

#### VII. Landowner Contributions

If other Non-Federal funds are provided from outside sources they may be credited to the landowner contribution. Landowners with permanent agreements are not required to contribute to restoration costs. Landowners choosing 30-year agreements are required to contribute 25% of

the restoration costs and are not assigned points for the first 25% contribution.

Maximum score – 10 points

OTHER CRITERIA: These will not be considered without documentation.

Endangered Species covers all Species of Special Concern, whether federal or state. Enrollees who do not control Coal Rights underlying the agreement area will receive a lower priority.

SIGNATURES: NRCS, and a representative of the FWS if available, must be present on-site to complete this form. The District Conservationist must sign for NRCS.